

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

~~What is disclosed herein is an~~ An identification apparatus ~~comprising~~ comprises an array of conductive pins fixed onto a base component placed onto a primary device and in communication therewith. A set of shaped identifiers ~~having~~ has a plurality of holes through which respective pins on the array of fixed pins pass. Each identifier ~~being~~ is uniquely configured with at least one distinct location containing a conductive sleeve fitted therein which allows the passage therethrough of that particular pin for further use by subsequently placed identifiers. Each pin is in individual communication with the primary device such that the primary device can thereafter identify the placed identifiers so as to subsequently perform certain functions or other desired operations based on the type, configuration, and/or number of identifiers placed thereon.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1:

The present invention is related to concurrently filed and co-pending US Patent Application Serial Numbers ~~———— (Attorney Docket D/A1689Q); ——— (Attorney Docket D/A1689Q1); ——— (Attorney Docket D/A1689Q2); and ——— (Attorney Docket D/A1689Q3),~~ 10/022,900; 10/022,914; 10/022,913, now US Patent No. 6,696,970, issued February 24, 2004; and 10/022,911, now US Patent No. 6,750,755, issued June 15, 2004, each of the above being incorporated herein by reference.